

# Global Command & Control System - Joint (GCCS-J)

**G**CCS-J is the Department of Defense joint Command and Control (C2) system of record for achieving the full spectrum dominance articulated in Joint Vision 2020. It is a suite of mission applications that provides critical joint warfighting C2 capabilities. GCCS-J is the principal foundation for dominant battlespace awareness, providing an integrated, near real-time picture of the battlespace necessary to conduct joint and multinational operations. It fuses select C2 capabilities into a comprehensive, interoperable system by exchanging imagery, intelligence, status of forces, and planning information.

GCCS-J consists of a series of capability improvements fielded as spiral and incremental releases within evolutionary blocks. Each release supports evolving user requirements for new or enhanced functional capabilities. Current releases feature an adaptable and constantly improving client/server architecture using commercial software and hardware, open systems standards, government-developed military planning software, web technology, and office automation.

### TEST & EVALUATION ACTIVITY

All releases are tested in accordance with the *Guidelines for Conducting Operational Test and Evaluation for Software-Intensive System Increments*, dated October 10, 1996.

### GCCS-J v3.4.0

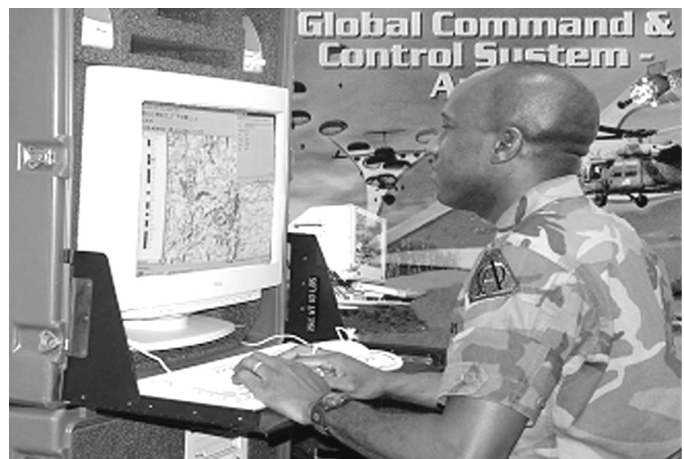
GCCS-J v3.4.0 included significant upgrades to the Integrated Imagery and Intelligence (I<sup>3</sup>) suite of applications supporting battlespace awareness and minor upgrades to several other functional and office automation suites of applications. The operational assessment was conducted February through March 2002. GCCS-J v3.4.0 was initially assessed not operationally effective or suitable, primarily due to documentation and system loading problems. These problems were addressed. The release was successfully retested and approved for fielding. The Operational Test Agency created a white paper and briefing outlining lessons learned, which are being applied to subsequent operational testing of GCCS-J releases.

### GCCS-J 3.5.0

GCCS-J v3.5.0 included major enhancement to the Global Combat Support System (Combatant Command/Joint Task Force) (GCCS (CC/JTF)). Selective improvements were made to the Information Assurance posture of GCCS-J. The operational assessment was conducted August through September 2002. GCCS-J v3.5.0 was deemed to be operationally effective and suitable with two caveats. First, a query against the Joint Operational Planning and Execution System (JOPEs) database will be changed in future releases to account for blank data, with workaround instructions provided in the release instructions for GCCS-J v3.5.0. Second, the status of system security testing will remain open pending the National Security Agency Information Assurance assessment report to be completed in November 2002. No new significant security findings are anticipated for v3.5.0.

### GCCS-J v3.6.0

GCCS-J v3.6.0 is the next spiral release, planned for May 2003. It includes enhancements in I<sup>3</sup> and Global Status of Resources and Training System capabilities as well as migration of the personal computer client operating system from Windows NT to Windows 2000. Operational testing is scheduled for late February 2003.



*Global Command & Control System - Joint provides a seamless operational picture of the joint battlespace and GCCS supports situational awareness and deliberate/ crisis planning with an integrated set of analytical tools and flexible data transfer capabilities.*

# DOD PROGRAMS

## **GCCS-J v4.0.0**

GCCS-J Block IV culminates with GCCS-J v4.0.0, which will introduce a new version of the underlying Common Operating Environment infrastructure and a reengineered JOPES. GCCS v4.0.0 will be a major operational testing effort, currently scheduled for early FY04.

## **TEST & EVALUATION ASSESSMENT**

The Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC) assessment leading up to and including the testing of GCCS-J v3.4.0 was valuable and should be continued for all testing of the system. Several measures were key to achieving success in the test of GCCS-J v3.5.0. DOT&E worked more closely with both the GCCS-J Program Management Office (PMO) and JITC during the early test planning stages to ensure that test readiness review checklists were complete and the data feed information in the Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP) was accurate. DOT&E will continue to be more actively involved in the minor releases. Execution of the following recommendations will ensure smooth operational assessment events.

- The entire software release should be loaded and launched at JITC's Indian Head facility prior to operational testing.
- More detailed test readiness review checklists, with dates, should be developed.
- PMO should continue to play an active role in test site selection based on site capabilities and software version release requirements.
- The PMO should identify all external data feeds early in the test process. Normally, this should appear in the TEMP.
- JITC should coordinate the test plan earlier with the PMO.
- Testing should be conducted in two phases. The system administrators need at least 48 hours after installing the release to perform functional checks prior to the start of the second phase of the operational test.